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## **INDIANA FIRMS CHOSEN FOR CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Stadium and Convention Building Authority announced today that Shiel Sexton Co. Inc. of Indianapolis has been chosen as the lead construction manager for an expansion of the Indiana Convention Center that will start upon the 2008 completion of the new Lucas Oil Stadium.

Powers & Sons, a Gary construction firm, was chosen as an associate CM.

The \$275 million project, currently in the design stage, will start immediately after the current RCA Dome is dismantled, with the new addition providing a link to the south between the Convention Center and the new stadium.

“This was an exceptionally competitive selection process,” said David R. Frick, chairman of the Authority board. “We are fortunate that Indiana is blessed with an impressive number of well qualified construction management firms that bid on the project. But in the final analysis, we were persuaded that the Shiel Sexton firm, by virtue of expertise and experience, is an excellent choice for this complex assignment.”

Frick noted that Shiel Sexton has completed 13 convention center projects over the last 23 years and has worked on 30 public assembly venues.

The expansion, coupled with square footage available in the new Lucas Oil Stadium and the existing Convention Center, will more than double the amount of floor space the Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Association can market for conventions, exhibitions and trade shows.

“The combined projects greatly enhance the ICVA’s competitive advantage in attracting events, said John P. Klipsch, the Authority’s executive director. “The Convention Center expansion alone will create 2,700 additional jobs here in the hospitality industry and produce as much as \$165 million in new sales. It also could mean as many as 28 major conventions and trade shows.”

Klipsch also observed that the Authority will intensify its efforts in the next few months to round out the Convention Center construction team with women-owned companies.

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A month ago, the ISCBA selected a team of four Indiana-based architects to plan and design the Convention Center expansion. Ratio Architects will be the lead architect in the group, assisted by BSA Lifestructures, Blackburn Architects Inc., and Domain Architecture Inc. All four firms are headquartered in Indianapolis.

The Convention Center expansion is to be completed by late 2010, in time for the height of the convention and trade show season.

As with the Lucas Oil Stadium, the Convention Center expansion is being financed by a combination of taxes from Central Indiana counties. Most of the revenue will come from increases in certain user taxes in Marion County. Additional funds will stem from small increases in food and beverage taxes in six of the “donut” counties. No state general tax dollars are being used.